



Ain't It Cool

By Derek Flint

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There are certain seminal film going experiences in your life... movies that you never forget the first time you see them: "Psycho" or "Jaws," "The Godfather" or "Star Wars."

Depending on who you are, the experience of sitting in a darkened theater and seeing a classic unspool before your eyes becomes permanently engrained in your memory.

That's the way I feel about a movie I've just seen: "United 93."

One of the things I came away with was how these people, under direct line of fire, made better decisions than all the bloated bureaucrats in Washington. Their bravery and resolve is made all the more heroic by the fact that they're depicted, by both Greengrass and the actors who play them, as real people with differing emotions who were thrust into the unimaginable. They're conflicted, scared, remorseful, angry... but, in the end, united.

One of the many things that surprised me about "United 93" is how Greengrass was able to illuminate passengers whose names you may have heard... but whose voices and personalities remained nondescript. From what I've read, the actors studiously researched the real life people they portrayed and met with their families... so any conjecture about behavior once again carries total verisimilitude. The performances are uniformly excellent.

Paul Greengrass is a unique voice and a superb director. To me, he's made the definitive examination of that day... and if "what's past is prologue," then it's up to us not to allow selfish interests to shape our destinies, as well as the destinies of generations to come.